

# LOVE IN ACTION

ON HOW CHRIST'S LOVE MAKES US LOVE

## *Love Leaves No One Behind*

September 20, 2020

### **Prayer before worship:**

Heavenly Father, You teach me clearly in your word that your love for me began by warning me about the dangers of my sin and my need for a Savior. Help me to gently but firmly point out the sin that threatens the loved ones in my life, including my fellow Christians. Help me do this with humility, because I know I'm no better but just as in need of your blood and righteousness. Thank you for your love in action for me, shown especially by your death on the cross. Amen

### **✠ The Order of Service ✠**

**M:** In the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

**C:** Amen.

#### **Confession of Sins** (*Spoken by pastor and congregation.*)

**M:** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**C:** **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

*Silence for reflection and self-examination*

**M:** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**C:** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful.**

**We have sinned against you in our thoughts, words, and actions, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

**We justly deserve your present and eternal punishment.**

**For the sake of your Son, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us. Amen**

#### **Announcement of Forgiveness**

**M:** Almighty God in his mercy has given his Son to die for you and for his sake forgives you all your sins. As a called servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C:** Amen.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**M:** Let us pray.

Let your continual mercy, O Lord, cleanse and defend your Church; and because it cannot continue in safety without your help, protect and govern it always by your goodness; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen**

## ✠ The Word ✠

### OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Ezekiel 33:7-11

<sup>7</sup> “Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the people of Israel; so hear the word I speak and give them warning from me. <sup>8</sup> When I say to the wicked, ‘You wicked person, you will surely die,’ and you do not speak out to dissuade them from their ways, that wicked person will die for their sin, and I will hold you accountable for their blood. <sup>9</sup> But if you do warn the wicked person to turn from their ways and they do not do so, they will die for their sin, though you yourself will be saved.

<sup>10</sup> “Son of man, say to the Israelites, ‘This is what you are saying: “Our offenses and sins weigh us down, and we are wasting away because of them. How then can we live?”’ <sup>11</sup> Say to them, ‘As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that they turn from their ways and live. Turn! Turn from your evil ways! Why will you die, people of Israel?’

### EPISTLE LESSON: Galatians 2:11-21

<sup>11</sup> When Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. <sup>12</sup> For before certain men came from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles. But when they arrived, he began to draw back and separate himself from the Gentiles because he was afraid of those who belonged to the circumcision group. <sup>13</sup> The other Jews joined him in his hypocrisy, so that by their hypocrisy even Barnabas was led astray.

<sup>14</sup> When I saw that they were not acting in line with the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas in front of them all, “You are a Jew, yet you live like a Gentile and not like a Jew. How is it, then, that you force Gentiles to follow Jewish customs?”

<sup>15</sup> “We who are Jews by birth and not sinful Gentiles <sup>16</sup> know that a person is not justified by the works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law, because by the works of the law no one will be justified.

<sup>17</sup> “But if, in seeking to be justified in Christ, we Jews find ourselves also among the sinners, doesn’t that mean that Christ promotes sin? Absolutely not! <sup>18</sup> If I rebuild what I destroyed, then I really would be a lawbreaker.

<sup>19</sup> “For through the law I died to the law so that I might live for God. <sup>20</sup> I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. <sup>21</sup> I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!”

## **GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 18:15-20**

<sup>15</sup> “If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. <sup>16</sup> But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that ‘every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.’ <sup>17</sup> If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector.

<sup>18</sup> “Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

<sup>19</sup> “Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. <sup>20</sup> For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.”

## **SERMON: Matthew 18:15-20**

“Love Leaves No One Behind”

## **CONFESSION OF FAITH**

**Luther’s Explanation of the Third Article of the  
Apostles’ Creed from the Small Catechism**

**C: I believe that I cannot by my own thinking or choosing believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to him. But the Holy Spirit has called me by the gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way he calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian church he daily and fully forgives all sins to me and all believers. On the Last Day he will raise me and all the dead and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ. This is most certainly true.**

## **PRAYER**

### **LORD’S PRAYER**

**C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

### **BLESSING**

**M: The Lord bless you and keep you.**

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and ✝ give you peace.

**C: Amen.**